

The SWORD of the LORD

Edited by JOHN R. RICE.

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A NEW YEAR, A NEW START

By EVANGELIST JOHN R. RICE

"And God said unto Jacob, Arise, go up to Bethel, and dwell there: and make there an altar unto God, that appeared unto thee when thou fleddest from the face of Esau thy brother"—Genesis 35:1.

"And the word of the Lord came unto Jonah the second time, saying, Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee. So Jonah arose, and went unto Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord.

— Jonah 3:1-3.

"I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned. . . ."

— Luke 15:18

A new year is upon us. It is time to make a new start. I have no patience with the shallow argument that because we have made good resolutions before and have failed to keep them, therefore we should not make New Year's resolutions. No man living ever did all he planned to do. No woman ever kept all her vows. But everyone who ever tried to do better was helped by it. People who try to do more than those who do not try. People who resolve to do more than those who do not resolve. And however much you have failed in the past, the coming of the new year is an ideal time to start over again to live for God and to be what God wants you to be.

The gospel of a second chance appears throughout the Bible.

Jacob Went Back to Bethel

Jacob, fleeing from his brother Esau, met God at Bethel. Asleep with his head on a pillow of stone, Jacob in a dream saw a ladder reaching to Heaven and angels of God ascending and descending. He arose and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place; and I knew it not!" (Gen. 28:16). So he vowed that if God would be with him and feed him and clothe him, and bring him to his father's house in peace, that the Lord should be his God, that he would surely give a tenth of all his income. (Gen. 28:22).

In the next score of years, Jacob had his ups and downs; he gained property and grew a great family; but one of his wives, at least, worshipped idols, and his daughter Dinah was ruined by young prince Shechem, and two of his sons in murderous rage assassinated the entire male population of a city. People all about turned against Jacob.

Then to backslidden Jacob came the command of God — he was to go back to Bethel! "Then Jacob said unto his household, and to

all that were with him, Put away the strange gods that are among you, and be clean, and change your garments: And let us arise, and go up to Bethel; and I will make there an altar unto God, who answered me in the day of my distress, and was with me in the way which I went" (Genesis 35:2, 3). So the family did away with their idols, and with chastened hearts and clean garments they went back to Bethel and made a new start!

Jonah Got a Second Chance to Preach

Jonah was a terrible "flop" as a Christian. When God commanded him to go and preach to the great city of Nineveh Jonah rebelled and ran away from God. At Joppa he paid his fare on a ship and embarked on a voyage to a far country. But God prepared a storm; the troubled sailors seeking to appease God woke up sleeping Jonah and asked him to call upon His God. Jonah confessed his rebellion and had the sailors cast him into the sea to stop the storm. God had prepared a great fish which swallowed Jonah, and oh, what penitent praying Jonah did in the belly of that fish!

Then at last the whale disgorged Jonah at the coast. The Lord Jesus believed this story and authenticated it when he said, "For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth" (Matt. 12:40). Therefore I have no trouble in believing it (nor anything else that God has said).

But to Jonah, far from home, whipped and ashamed, the word of the Lord came saying, "Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city; and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee." And this time "Jonah arose, and went unto Nine-

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"THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH"

By REV. JESSE M. HENDLEY

Pastor, Colonial Hills Baptist Church, Atlanta, Georgia

— ROMANS 6:23

Why Bother About Preaching About the Sins of the People?

Because the Prophets Did. Isaiah and also Amos cried out against the actual sins which the people were committing. They called each sin by its name. They called drunkenness, *DRUNKENNESS*; they called adultery, *ADULTERY*! They did not mince words, but called each sin by its proper and right name!

The Apostles Did. All of the apostles of the Lamb called sin, *SIN*. In Romans 1, Galatians 5, I Corinthians 6, and elsewhere, we find the Apostle Paul wrote against the sins of his day in plain language.

Christ Did. Christ spoke plainly about sin. In the Gospel of John, chapter four, we have the record of Christ winning a poor, fallen woman to Himself. As soon as He found she wanted to be saved, He exposed her sins plainly, saying: "Go, call your husband." She replied:

"I have no husband." Christ then cut into her sins, exposing it unmercifully, saying,

"Thou hast well said, 'I have no husband;' for thou hast had five husbands and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly." After laying her sin wide open, Christ forgave her, and she was saved. Jesus again said, "If I had not come, they had not known sin." There are two questions facing every sinner. They are (1) The Sin question and (2) The Son question.

God Has Commanded Us to Preach Against Sins! He says:

"Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice, like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgressions, and the house of Jacob their sins"

Hear Sam Morris!

"The Voice of Temperance" Broadcasts Daily on 3 Radio Stations.

Dr. Sam Morris, nationally-known preacher, Bible teacher, and temperance lecturer, may be heard daily on the following stations:

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Dr. Morris is a long-time friend of the editor. Over 3,000 people have written to tell him that his broadcasts have turned them from drink; hundreds have been saved through his radio ministry, thousands through his revival campaigns. We believe he is doing more than any other man in America against the liquor traffic. Hear him if possible.



Rev. Sam Morris

(Isa. 58:1). The first statement I want to make is:

All of Us Are Sinners

How do we know this to be true? God says so! Is every man a sinner? Yes! The Lord tells us in I John 1:8:

"If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us." Then we have Solomon's words in Ecclesiastes 7:20: "For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not." Listen to Paul's words found in Romans 3:23:

"... all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." Many men will say that they have no sin, but, the man who claims to have no sin deceives only one person and that is himself, and self-deceit is a terrible thing. Not long ago I was called to the death bed of a self-deceived man. A call came to me to visit some people who were lost and who lived in a fine section of our city. The husband and wife had both been working and suddenly the husband was taken ill in another state. He was rushed home and a physician was called to his bedside. His condition was pronounced serious.

These people left God out of their lives, and in this hour of need some advocates of a false religion visited this sick man and told him that there was no such thing as sickness. It was only something that existed in the mind. They further advised him to repeat certain phrases along this line and to believe that he was not sick, and predicted that he would soon be well.

So, he dismissed his physician to follow the advice of these poor, deluded advocates of this false religion. To the amazement of everyone, he began to recover and not much time had gone by before he was walking around in his room. Within about a week's time he was able to go to the church with these people, and everyone called it a miracle.

But, one day he dropped in his tracks, and was carried home a dying man. They summoned his physician again, but there was no hope for his life. He was sick, and sick unto death! HE HAD BEEN DECEIVED!

Later I was called into the home where the wife sorrowfully related the whole story to me. I said to her:

"Don't you want Jesus for your Saviour? Don't you want to get right with God in truth?"

Then she knelt and repented of her sin and accepted Christ as her own personal Saviour. She then asked me if I would like to see her husband. I assured her that I would, and so she took me upstairs where he was lying unconscious, still breathing, but scarcely alive, and beyond the reach of any human voice. Later I had the joy of leading two of his children to Christ, but could do nothing at all for this poor deceived man. It was pitiful to see him still alive and rushing on into Eternity without hope, and we were helpless to reach him and give him the truth.

This man was deceived into believing that he was not sick when he was sick, and this self-deception led to his death. So, it is with sin. This is true of your sin. You are a sinner and must repent of your sins, or go to Hell. Next

All Are Responsible For Their Sins!

God says: "Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the SOUL THAT SINNETH, IT SHALL DIE" (Ezek. 18:4). This is THE LAW OF INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY TO GOD. God tells us that no father shall die for his son's sins, and no son must die for his father's sins. It is the individual soul that does the sinning and that soul shall die for those sins. It is everyone in his own shoes before God. Parents cannot represent their children, a wife cannot take her husband's place before God, and the husband cannot stand before God for the wife. The one who eats sour grapes will have his own teeth set on edge. The man who sows his wild oats must reap his own harvest. God's solemn word is:

"... ALL SOULS ARE MINE; THE SOUL THAT SINNETH, IT SHALL DIE!" We belong to Him, and we are going to have to answer to Him and His sovereign decree: "... THE SOUL THAT

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DR. HANKINS HAS "A GREAT SPIRITUAL TRIUMPH" IN JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

In the Florida Baptist Witness we have seen a fine report of a great eight day revival campaign held by Dr. Joe Henry Hankins in Jacksonville, Florida, as reported by Dr. Thomas Hansen, pastor. We quote from that report here.

"Main Street Revival a Great Spiritual Triumph

"The Main Street Baptist Church, Jacksonville, has just closed eight great soul-winning days which brought a real spiritual awakening to those who are already Christian and added 194 new members to the church.

"Dr. Joe H. Hankins of Pine Bluff, Arkansas, was the evangelist and Brother Frank L. Stubbs, Educational Director of the Main Street Church, directed the singing. These brethren were both filled

with the Spirit and used mightily to the Lord's glory."

Dr. Hansen continues, in the Florida Baptist Witness, report, telling of the "marvelous work" Dr. Hankins had as pastor of the First Baptist Church of Little Rock, Arkansas, baptising an average of 238 new converts per year in his own church, and seeing over 2,000 others converted in other churches where he held special revival services in the same period. That is truly a marvelous record. Then the report continues,

"For the past year, in which he has been engaged in full time evangelistic work, there have been more than 2,100 conversions and additions under his preaching.

"The apostle declares that 'God has called some to be evangelists

(Continued on page two)

We ought not to rest content in the mists of the valley when the summit of Tabor awaits us. How pure are the dews of the hills, how fresh is the mountain air, how rich the fare of the dwellers aloft whose windows look into the New Jerusalem! Many saints are content to live like men in coal mines, who see not the sun. Tears mar their faces when they might anoint them with celestial oil. Satisfied I am that many a believer pines in a dungeon when he might walk on the palace roof, and view the goodly land and Lebanon. Rouse thee, O believer, from thy low condition! Cast away thy sloth, thy lethargy, thy coldness, or whatever interferes with thy chaste and pure love to Christ. Make Him the source, the center, and the circumference of all thy soul's range of delight. Rest no longer satisfied with thy dwarfish attainments. Aspire to a higher, a nobler, a fuller life. Upward to heaven! Nearer to God! — SPURGEON.

DR. HANKINS HAS "A GREAT SPIRITUAL TRIUMPH" IN JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

(Continued from page one)

... How true! Dr. Hankins is a God-called, God-used evangelist. May the Lord continue to crown his ministry with great spiritual victories in the Gospel.

Thomas Hansen, Pastor.

We are so happy to have word of this great revival triumph. A letter from Dr. Hankins tells us that of those 194 new members received by one church in eight days, 160 of them for baptism, new converts saved during the eight days. Others were unenlisted or backslidden Christians who, being revived, joined in with God's people in the church. We know that church membership is not first. And Dr. Hankins is unusually careful to make it plain always that salvation comes first. And how pointed and plain he makes it, that salvation is only by the blood of Christ, received through penitent faith! But at Pentecost "the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved," and we are told that "the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls." The Bible way, we believe, is to get new converts lined up with local churches, to learn the Word of God, to give, to pray, to win souls. And that, Dr. Hankins does.

Dr. Hankins is getting calls for some union revival campaigns next year, and we hope he will turn down many of the flood of calls from local churches, so that he can give most of his time to union campaigns. He is one of the greatest gospel preachers in America. He preaches with passion and tears and the power of the Holy Ghost. He is a Bible preacher. He really gets results for God.

If a few pastors in any given community feel impressed they should like to have a union cam-

paign with Dr. Hankins, they may write him at Route 3, Pine Bluff, Arkansas. Some groups, no doubt, would be glad to have the help of some experienced man in planning and setting up such a union revival campaign, getting other pastors and churches enlisted, planning for the auditorium, the advertising, the choir. The editor of *The Sword of the Lord* will be glad to send a good experienced, spiritual man of vision to help pastors plan such a campaign, do the business of promotion and preparation, for Dr. Hankins, if they will write to me.

Groups who want a union revival campaign would do well to get any of the following brethren:

Evangelist Joe Henry Hankins
R. 3
Pine Bluff, Arkansas

Evangelist Hyman J. Appelman
825 Woodland Ave.
Fort Worth, Texas

Rev. Jesse M. Hendley
P. O. Box 600
Atlanta, Georgia

These brethren are among America's best soul winners. They have large experience. They are sound in doctrine, safe in methods, are not money-minded. They really win souls, build up the churches and do not bring reproach upon the cause of Christ. If we can help you plan a union campaign for any of these brethren, let us know.

J. Stratton Shufelt, popular, spiritually-minded and gifted song leader and soloist, and I, will be engaged in union campaigns most of 1944, God willing. Some time is open.

Evangelist John R. Rice
Editor, *THE SWORD OF THE LORD*.

A BEAUTIFUL GIFT!

For the graduate, for your soldier, for your pastor, to comfort a sick friend, or to remember a kind hostess, give

"AND GOD REMEMBERED..." by Evangelist John R. Rice, D. D. Here is a really beautiful gift book. The jacket is of expensive gold paper printed in dark brown ink with the scene of the ark floating on a world-wide sea with storm clouds above. The book is bound in tan pebble-grained cloth. Every chapter has an appropriate illustration, several of them full-page drawings by the Christian artist, Mr. U. S. Abell. The sermons are the very cream of six years of writing, saved by the author just for this book, the most popular sermons Dr. Rice has ever preached. Here is a resume of the sermons:

"And God Remembered..." — He remembered Noah in the awful vastness of the flood. He remembered Abraham and brought Lot out of Sodom. He remembered Rachel with the barren womb, and childless Hannah. He remembered His covenant, His promises. And God remembers sin and brings it to judgment. But bless His name, He forgets and forgives our sins when we trust Christ!

"Tears in Heaven" — What a strange place for tears! But tears there will be, as this burning chapter proves from the Scriptures. Tears of shame for Christians caught up at the rapture if they do not abide in Christ; tears of terror over facing the judgment seat of Christ; tears of sorrow over the loss of works burned up in Heaven's bonfire, and they alone are saved "so as by fire," and tears over the sins of earth; tears over lost loved ones; and tears over the doom of the damned in the lake of fire!

"Behold the Man!" — This chapter is a blessed portrayal of Christ the Mighty God who became man; His humanity and how it makes Him real and blessed to sinners who need salvation and not far off but nigh to those who trust Him.

"Where Is the Lord God of Ekkah?" — He is not dead! He still answers prayers, answers prayers today, works miracles for those who trust Him. How your faith will be strengthened by this chapter!

The Exceeding Abundantly Able God — Able beyond any need of ours, ready to do more than we can possibly ask or think. This message will expand your conception of the miracle-working willingness of God to do for us all we need and more.

The Torn Veil — How the veil in the temple that was torn from the top to the bottom when Christ died symbolizes every barrier torn down between God and man, the barriers of a peace-making sacrifice, of an adequate priesthood, of a particular place, and of a chosen people. The way into the Holy of Holies of free salvation and full assurance made blessedly clear.

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BOOK REVIEWS

HOW DID THE WORLD BEGIN? by George McCready Price, published by Revell. Here is a big little book. There are sixteen chapters by the experienced scientist and teacher of geology. He is an earnest, Bible believing Christian. Here are scientific facts to contradict evolution and to prove that the world began by direct creation of God, that only a flood such as described in the Bible can account for the fossils and the rock layers in the surface of the earth. The chapters on "No Evolution of the Chemical Elements" and "No Evolution Among the Stars" and "Life Only from Life" and "Microbes Refute Evolution" are specially strong. This book is particularly needed by pastors, college students, and all who have to deal with the unbelief of evolution. Its message will be greatly strengthened if it can be followed by two books by Byron C. Nelson, "AFTER THEIR KIND" and "THE DELUGE STORY IN STONE," both published by Augsburg Press. However, we commend this book heartily. Cloth bound. Ninety-four full pages. Price \$1.00.

FOOTPRINTS OF GOD by Arthur I. Brown, Fundamental Truth Publishers, Findlay, Ohio. Here are ten chapters giving a thrilling account of the footprints of God in nature. It is beautifully written so that young people ought to be fascinated by it. This book helps people to believe more thoroughly that only the fool says there is no God. You will know more about nature as you read this book, and

you will find in every bird and flower, in every atom and molecule, in every star and planet, further proof that only an infinite, all-wise God could create and sustain this universe. The book is scientific but devoutly reverent and Scriptural. We commend it most highly. 235 pages. Price \$1.50.

A MARINE AMONG THE IDOLS by Claude H. Curtis. The absorbing true story of a United States Marine in China in the early days of Jap aggression; how he was later discharged from the Marine Corps for a business career in China; how his company sent him to the missionaries on business trips; of his happy conversion, his first testimonies for Christ, and thrilling stories of answered prayer. Here is a book easy to read, attractive to young people, a book to put into the hands of unsaved people. Our Brother Curtis tells his story interestingly; how an Episcopalian who could quote the Apostles' Creed yet knew nothing about salvation and regeneration and how he went on in sin until his eyes were opened and he was won to Christ. The book is already in the third printing. Has nice type, attractive cloth-binding, 98 pages with a very attractive jacket. We commend the book as interesting and helpful. Zondervan Publishing Company. Price \$1.00.

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\$1 a year — \$2 for 3 years

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Wheaton, Ill.

ENORMOUS DEMAND FOR 'PRAYER' BOOK

"A two-fold revival in my heart from reading portions of that book" says Pastor Robert Lee Powell, Temple Baptist Church, Tacoma, Washington.

The second edition of the large book PRAYER — ASKING AND RECEIVING, by the editor, Dr. John R. Rice, will have been delivered to us, God willing, long before you get this paper. By being willing to accept two kinds of blue cloth for the binding, taking paper that was available which made a somewhat smaller book and paying higher prices we were able to get about 9,900 copies of the book out at once. And you may be surprised to hear that about 3,500 copies of the book had been ordered before this printing came from the bindery. Others will continue to go rapidly we feel sure.

Our hearts are continually warmed and blessed to see how God is using this book. Preachers, like laymen and laywomen, write to us continually of the blessings received through this book.

A very kindly word comes from Rev. Robert Lee Powell, pastor of the Temple Baptist Church, Tacoma, Washington. Sending an order for two copies of the book on prayer to be sent to preacher friends, along with subscriptions to the *Sword of the Lord*, Brother Powell says:

"My dear Brother Rice:

I want to thank you for the book on prayer. I can't remember having ever read a book on prayer that stimulated me so much in the right direction. I had a two-fold revival in my heart from reading portions of that book: it stimulated my desire to pray more and it awakened a fresh impulse of faith in a "prayer-hearing, and a prayer-answering God." If I could afford to do it, I would gladly put a copy in every one of our church homes. You have rendered a real service to the children of God in producing and publishing this book. God bless you."

This beautiful book on prayer, 21 chapters, 328 extra large pages, now sells for \$1.50. It has blue cloth binding stamped with gold, blue printed jacket. It is transforming lives. Thousands are being blessed by it. Don't miss your

In Good Revival, Fort Madison, Ia.



Rev. F. A. Wirth

Rev. F. A. Wirth, pictured above, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Petersburg, Illinois, recently had an unusual revival campaign with the Fort Madison Bible Church, Fort Madison, Iowa. Rev. James C. Leonard, pastor. The church asked the editor of *The Sword of the Lord* to recommend a man to conduct revival services; we recommended Brother Wirth as a revival preacher of unusual power and successful soul-winning experience. Now the report comes, "Eighteen came forward to accept Christ as Lord and dozens consecrated their lives to the Lord, while others requested prayer. This was a real revival as the church is only about five years old and only has about forty members."

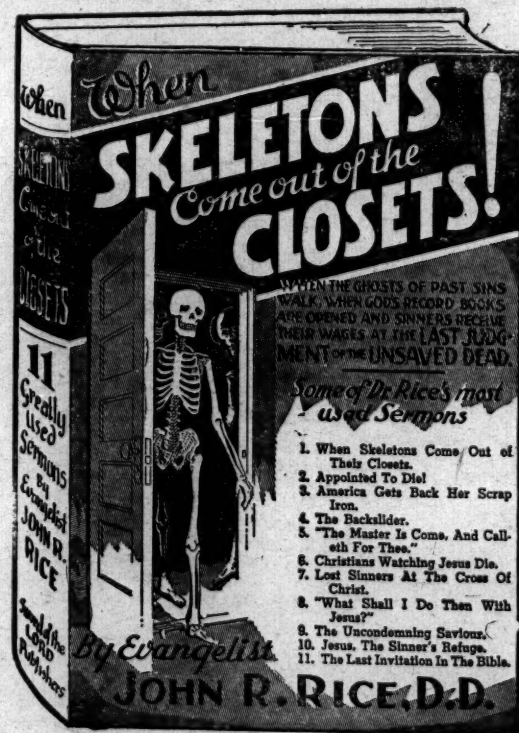
This pastor-evangelist has a wonderful record of blessed revival campaigns. Sound in doctrine clean in life, brotherly in spirit, and filled with the Holy Ghost, Brother Wirth has such good success in soul-winning that I hope churches will keep him busy in revivals for all the time he can give. He may be addressed:

Rev. F. A. Wirth, Pastor
First Baptist Church
Petersburg, Illinois

blessing. Order your book today. It will be shipped immediately.

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"Soul-Stirring, Convicting, Spiritual"



Rev. Paul G. Green, President of the Faith Evangelism and Missionary Fellowship, Inc., of Phoenix, Arizona, a beloved and useful brethren, writes: "The book *When Skeletons Come Out of Their Closets* is soul-stirring, convicting, spiritual, and will surely be used in a mighty way."

The Pilot magazine says: "Eleven sermons of the fiery, evangelistic type, so characteristic of Dr. Rice's ministry, are contained in this new book. Simple in language and style, abundant in striking illustrations, these sermons are unusually heart-searching in their dealing with many of life's problems. You will be blessed in reading them; and then you will want to pass on the book to your unsaved friends."

These eleven sermons have been greatly used of God. The book has 191 pages, is beautifully bound in wine-colored cloth stamped in gold, has striking pictured jacket in purple ink. Despite the war, our price is still remarkably low only.....

\$1.00

Pastors and evangelists would be delighted to have this book as a Christmas present. You may order six copies for \$5.00. Full of thrilling Bible teaching, the kind that saves souls and revives the saints. Full of spiritual meat and the power of God.

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A New Year, a New Start

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veh, according to the word of the Lord" (Jonah 3:3). That greatest city of antiquity repented! The king and his nobles put on sackcloth and sat in ashes. The people repented of their sins and God spared the wicked city. He had planned to destroy! Jonah got his second chance to preach. Nineveh repented, got its second chance at life itself.

Moses, After Forty Years in the Desert, Made a New Start to Deliver Israel

Moses knew what it was to make a new beginning in the service of the Lord. As a hot-headed man of forty, Moses, reared as the son of Pharaoh's daughter, decided to cast his lot with his people, the Hebrews. He killed one Egyptian oppressor and thought to deliver his people. (Ex: 2:12). But the time was not ripe, the Jews themselves turned against him and Moses fled to the desert of Midian where he spent forty long, disconsolate years. And then, wonder of wonders, God spoke to him through the burning bush and sent the seasoned and ripened Moses to deliver his people. Moses made a new start and this time succeeded.

Thank God for the doctrine of a second chance!

Samson, the Profligate, Blinded, Imprisoned Giant, Had God's Spirit Upon Him Again

Samson, too, knew what it meant to make a new start for God. Samson's birth was foretold by an angel. (Read Judges, chapters 13 through 16). He became wonderfully filled with the Spirit of God to judge Israel. With his hands he rent a lion and killed him as if he had been a kid, and at one time killed thirty men of the Philistines, and at another time a thousand fell under the flailing jawbone of an ass in his hand. He carried off the city gate of Gaza in his strength and nothing could withstand him when the Spirit of God came upon him.

But Samson did not always honor God. He visited a harlot in Gaza. Later he loved Delilah and finally told her of the secret of his strength, of his Nazarite vow and his long hair. Delilah cut off his hair as he slept with his head in her lap, the Spirit of God departed from him, and his power was gone. The Philistines put out his eyes and bound him to turn a mill like a donkey, walking round and round.

There poor, sightless, captive Samson turned his heart back to God. His hair began to grow again. And when Samson was brought to the house of idols to make sport for the Philistine people, he called on God and said, "O Lord God, remember me, I pray thee, and strengthen me, I pray thee, only this once, O God, that I may be at once avenged of the Philistines for my two eyes." (Judges 16:28). God was with him, the heathen temple fell down when the two center columns were pulled down, "So the dead which he slew at his death were more than they which he slew in his life" (Judges 16:30). Samson died gloriously with the power of God upon him, after he had made a new start for God.

Peter, After Cursing, Denying Christ and Quitting the Ministry, Made a New Start

Simon Peter came to the most disastrous fall of any man mentioned in the New Testament. After being the chief of the apostles, when Jesus was arrested, his courage failed him. He cursed and swore and denied Jesus publicly and then went away and wept bitterly. His heart was broken over his cowardice, his shameful surrender to temptation and over the ruin of his testimony. Grief filled his heart over the way he had treated the beloved Lord Jesus. He seemed to lose all his faith. He planned to quit the ministry. He went back to fishing for a living.

But at the Sea of Galilee Jesus met him again. Jesus caused the empty nets to be filled with fish, cooked breakfast for the disciples, and then sent the humbled apostle again to "feed my sheep" and "feed my lambs." In a few days more Simon Peter was ready to

preach at Pentecost — yea, ready to live and ready to die for the Lord Jesus. How blessed that Peter made a new start! How wonderful that the Lord Jesus had been praying for him all the time, never did give him up, did not let Satan have him! How wonderful that God gives us poor Christians another chance when we fail Him.

Prodigal Son Proves Anybody Can Start Over

The story of the prodigal son is the story of a man who started over again — that wild lad who went away from home proudly, who wasted his substance with riotous living and came to rags and hunger and a hog pen, at last "came to himself." He recalled that "How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!" He resolved, "I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee. And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants." And then and there, "He arose, and came to his father" (Luke 15:17-20). That story has the happiest ending of all the "really, truly" stories in the world. The father ran to meet him, met him with the kiss of forgiveness, brought for him a new robe, a ring and shoes for the bruised feet, and killed the fatted calf. The boy who was lost was now found. He who was dead was now alive! The poor prodigal boy was now at home and loved and happy again. Here again is the doctrine of a second chance.

How a Sinning Christian Is to Make a New Start

The year that is gone has been a sad and miserable year for many. 1943 has been a year of war and trouble, outwardly; to many a Christian it has been a year of defeat, of surrender to temptation, a year of powerlessness, of self-will, of backsliding. Oh, with the approach of the new year, make a new start! Come back to the Father and start over again!

In I John 1:9 is a blessed promise so good for the new year, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Any backslidden Christian, any wayward child of God, any converted person who has lost his joy and assurance and the sweet consciousness of God's favor, can simply confess his sins to God and have them all wiped out in a moment! This is part of the contract we entered into with God at Calvary. God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse every erring one who confesses his sin.

In Proverbs 28:13 we are told, "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy." Oh, reader, admit your failures! Uncover your backsliding! Confess how far you have missed God's way, God's best. And with that honest confessing, that penitent uncovering of your sins, there will come sweet forgiveness and mercy, a new cleansing and blessing.

The fifty-first Psalm is the prayer of David confessing his sin with Bathsheba, asking for a new pouring-out of the Holy Spirit on him, promising that he would win souls if God would renew a right spirit within him and forgive his sins. Many of us need to pray the same prayer today.

Oh, well I know that many readers at this New Year's time do not look back on a year of drunkenness and adultery and thievery. Your sins, perhaps, are not as coarse and obvious as that. Thousands of us, rather, have found our love grown cold. We have had too little of the Spirit's power. The fruit we have borne has been too little. How we preachers and Christian workers do need to make a new start!

The Psalmist exults, "I shall be anointed with fresh oil" (Psalm 92:10). Surely that is what all of us need for the new year. I know I need it and by God's grace I intend to have it. "I shall be anointed with fresh oil!" At Pentecost there was a mighty pouring-out of the Spirit. "And they were all

filled with the Holy Ghost." (Acts 2:4). A few days later trouble came and there was a new need, a new problem, a new burden. So the disciples gathered together in prayer again; "And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness." (Acts 4:31).

Notice these nine words from Acts 2:4 describing Pentecost, "And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost."

Notice the same nine words in Acts 4:31 describing a later experience of the same people: "And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost."

Oh, we can have again all the fullness and blessing we ever had. Yea, we can have more, if we need more. Let us resolve this holy resolve; let us make this holy vow; let us take upon us this holy obligation — "I will not go into 1944 and through it without the manifold power of the Holy Spirit upon me!" Let us make a new start, have a new dedication, a new surrender and a new empowering and anointing of the Spirit of God.

Lost Sinner, Start 1944 By Trusting Christ For Salvation

Perhaps you are an unconverted, lost sinner. Perhaps you never received Christ as your personal Saviour, never were born again. Then the only way you can make a new start that will please God is to repent of your sins and once and for all, take Christ as your own Saviour. Let Him come into your heart, forgive your sins and save your soul. Let Him make you God's own dear child. Will you do it today?

You see, quitting your drink is not enough. Possibly you cannot quit it alone; possibly you can. But what God wants is a start in the heart and not merely in the habit. Instead of just quitting your cursing or quitting your smoking, God wants you to quit your rebellion against Christ! He wants you to change from Satan's side to God's side in your heart. He wants you to be not a Christ-rejector but a Christ-accepter. Oh, lost sinner, all you need to do is to turn in your heart to trust in Jesus Christ as your own Saviour. He will do everything you need if you only surrender to Him and trust Him for forgiveness.

DECISION FOR EVERYBODY!

Probably every reader ought to take some definite stand in your heart, make some definite new start for God before you lay this paper down. I suggest that you look over the following three statements to see which of them you can honestly sign. Check that square now. Then sign it. Then write me in your own words, or copy the decision which you have signed today; how glad I will be!

Date.....

Evangelist John R. Rice, Editor
"The Sword of The Lord"
Wheaton, Illinois

Dear Brother Rice:

Today I honestly make the New Year's decision which is checked below:

☐ 1. I am a backslider. I have been previously converted but have drifted into sin and worldliness and lost my joy and assurance. Today I confess my backsliding to God, and renew my vows. I trust Christ to forgive me and help me live for Him, out-and-out, in 1944.

☐ 2. I am a Christian but I confess that I am not filled with the Holy Spirit. I have not been the fruitful soul-winner I ought to be, in 1943. I have not had the warm-hearted love for God and His Word I should have had. I am saved, but I have not paid the price for power that I ought to pay. Here and now I confess my lack of power and come to God for a new anointing. I set out to seek His face daily, to confess every known sin, to surrender to every known will of His, confidently expecting that He will anoint me with the power of the Holy Spirit for a happier, more fruitful life in 1944.

☐ 3. I am a poor lost sinner who has never before been converted. Here and now I confess my sin to God. With penitent heart I ask His forgiveness and mercy. Today

"THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH"

(Continued from page one)

SINNETH, IT SHALL DIE." And again, God says:

"The wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23). This death does not mean simply a physical death. That is terrible enough in itself, but this verse has reference to the second death — THE LAKE OF FIRE into which sinners, who do not give up their sins and turn to Jesus, must be cast!

"But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death" (Rev. 21:8).

Now, we want to warn about some of the sins that are damning souls of men and women today.

Some Sins That Are Damning Souls Today

1. **CURSING — MEN AND WOMEN ARE CURSING THEIR WAY TO HELL.** Not so very long ago I heard a boy riding on a trolley car rip out an oath, using the Name of Jesus. With a shudder, I thought to myself: "Young man, one of these days you are going to die, and the only One Who will be able to help you in that solemn moment, the only One who will be able to keep you out of Hell, is the One Whose blessed Name you are now blaspheming!" I was once a blasphemer myself, but thank God, one day like Isaiah, "... I saw also the Lord... high and lifted up..." (Isa. 6:1). Then I cried: "... Woe is me! ... because I am a man of unclean lips for mine eyes have seen the Lord..." (Isa. 6:5). Oh, thanks be to God. He cleansed my lips and saved me from a blasphemer's Hell!

2. **LYING. GOD SAYS THAT HE HATES A LYING TONGUE.** Husbands lie to their wives, and wives lie to their husbands. Men in the business world lie to get more business. Children lie to their parents in order to cover up their sins. God's Word truthfully says: "The wicked... go astray as soon as they are born, speaking lies" (Ps. 58:3).

"I Cannot Stop Lying!"

Recently I had a letter from a lady who begged me to pray for her, and these were her words: "Pray for me, I can't stop lying." It is either stop lying, or go to Hell. God says "... and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone..." (Rev. 21:8).

3. **PRIDE. GOD SAYS, "A PROUD LOOK..."** I HATE. One man said: "I'll never bow my knees." Oh, yes, you will, brother. You must bow your knees now, or else you will bow them in the lake of fire, for God says: "That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth" (Phil. 2:11). Then He says further that "every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Phil. 2:12). You must bow in this life, this side of the grave, or you will have to bow in the flames of Hell on the other side! Pride is a sin that is keeping people out of Heaven and is sending multitudes to Hell. God says again, "... a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise..." (Psa. 51:17). This means then, that God does not despise those who have a broken heart over their sin. No one goes to Heaven without a broken heart. Then in the light of this verse of Scripture, we know that God does despise those without a broken heart over their sins. If you are not willing to admit that you are a sinner, and to ask for mercy through Christ, then you must go

I trust Jesus Christ to forgive all my sins and save my soul, and I claim Him now as my Saviour. By His grace I will try to be known as a child of God from this day, and to live for Him.

SIGNED.....

ADDRESS.....

to Hell, for God hates pride! Some one has said that there is pride of face, pride of place, pride of race, and even pride of grace, and beloved, God hates them all!

4. **LOVE OF MONEY.** God says in His Word that "... the love of money is the root of all evil" (I Tim. 6:10). When I invited one man to church, he told me: "I cannot come to church, for I must make a living!" He is wrong. There is only one thing that any man *must* do, and that is to die and meet God! You cannot take a job, bank account, real estate, home with you when you die. What will men and women do about the Lord's day that they have broken then? Will you risk the loss of your soul for a few extra dollars? Many men and women are working themselves to death and Hell, forgetting their souls, their God, their Bible, and the Lord's day. Are you one of those, my friend?

5. **LOVE OF PLEASURE.** God tells us in II Timothy 3:4 that men will be "lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God..." What are some of these pleasures of the world? First, there is the DANCE! Rescue workers inform us that the majority of fallen girls began their downward road to ruin in the dance hall. The other day I received a soul-stirring letter from a young girl who had blasted her life, and who was now living in shame, and these are her words: "The dance led to my destruction."

Second, there is the pleasure of GAMBLING which many in the world today love. Many are gambling their way to Hell. Recently two brothers in our city sat down to a game of cards, and when they arose at the conclusion of the game, one was weltering in his blood. Yes, one killed his own brother over a deck of cards!

Third, there is the FILTHY LITERATURE that is damning multitudes of souls. My friend, you cannot read the dirty, salacious, vile, indecent magazines, with their dirty, immoral sex pictures of half-dressed people, and be clean in mind and heart! Only the pure in heart and mind will see God according to the words of the Lord Jesus given in Matthew 5:8:

"Blessed are the PURE IN HEART: for they shall see God."

Fourth, there is the THEATRE, and beloved, you cannot walk with God and attend them. Shortly after I was saved, I found that every time I went into the theatre, I felt condemned and my fellowship with God was broken. I became miserable and unhappy, and I would go home and have to pray forty-five minutes to an hour before communion with God was restored. Being a young Christian, I did not realize what was wrong at first. However, one day after attending an unusually dirty and suggestive picture, I went home miserable in my soul. When I prayed, I began to realize that my body was the temple of the Holy Spirit, and that He went Holy theatre with me, and hathat

(Continued on page four)

THE SWORD OF THE LORD

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EVANGELIST JOHN R. RICE
EDITOR AND PUBLISHER

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"THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH"

(Continued from page three)

grieved and hurt by the indecency there. I promised God that I would give them up, and by His grace have done so.

God is holy and commands in His Word: "... BE YE HOLY..." (I Pet. 1:16). You certainly cannot be HOLY in a modern moving picture theatre. I passed a theatre the other day where they had large pictures of half-dressed girls outside as advertisements to attract men; men who marry from one to five or six times, and fling off one only to take another, and then repeating it as often as they will. The "stars" that shine down here are not apt to do much shining in the presence of God after living such wicked lives here upon earth. Beloved, no one can walk with God and attend the modern theatre!

6. LIQUOR DRINKING. The other day there came the agonizing cry of a lady over the telephone saying: "Where is my brother? Where is my brother?" I said, "What do you mean?"

She replied, "My brother died drinking. Where is he?" What would you have told her? Out of pity I told her to commit him to God. I did not answer her question, for I thought if her brother had died drinking that he was in Hell! God says that there will be no drunkard in Heaven. In I Corinthians 6:10 we read:

"Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God."

God speaks against drinking everywhere in the Bible. It will wreck your body, blast your character, and damn your soul, and will at last bring you to Hell! You can play with liquor too long! Stay with it long enough, and it will ultimately get you. There isn't anything more pitiable on earth than a drunkard who cannot stop his drinking. God's Word tells us that a man can keep on sinning until he "cannot cease from sin." He cannot stop. He is going down hill with no brakes, and Hell is at the bottom.

I know one man who is drinking his way into Hell. He has lost his character, his job, his home, and is now losing his mind from drinking. I have been with him in his home, have talked with him and prayed for him. He reformed for a short while, but then went back again to his bottle. Like the dog who "returns to his vomit" and the "sow who was washed to the wallowing in the mire." That is his condition. I see him often, staggering by, and frequently say in my heart, "How I would like to kneel with you and lead you to Jesus, but I cannot. I'm afraid that you will never come!"

At the radio station the other day a young man of twenty-three years of age came to me and said:

"I have lost my wife. I have lost my baby. I have lost my job, and my name, and I am now losing my soul through drink." We knelt together and prayed. He professed to accept Jesus as his Saviour, but the laymen he came back weeping.

the next day, and said: **HE LOST!**

Copies of 10-page sermon on "The Wages of Sin" and distributed to your unsaved friends. One cent each, or \$1.00 for 100. Address Evangelist John L. Rice, 1006 LA RUE ST., SO. JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA.

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"Preacher, I cannot pass these liquor stores. I cannot pass these liquor stores."

Thank God, by His matchless grace, I can pass them. Here is a man only twenty-three years of age who cannot give up his bottle! As long as he holds on to it, he cannot go to Heaven. God's Word is sure — "NO DRUNKARD SHALL ENTER THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN" (I Cor. 6:10).

My daddy was called to the bedside of a dying man whom he had known for many years. This man had been drinking all during those years. When he entered the room of this dying man, he saw this wretched man lying strapped to his death bed with delirium tremens. He was crying and screaming: "Take them away; take them away." His old, white-haired mother was trying to quiet him, saying, "There is nothing there, son, there is nothing there." Ah, but there was something there, for there were twenty-five years of liquor drinking to stare him in the face as his soul was going out to meet God Whose Word he had defied!

Yes, beloved, the Word of God tells us that no drunkard shall inherit the kingdom of God. Make up your mind to either get rid of your bottle, or, to make your bed in Hell!

7. ADULTERY. Now, what shall I say about the Scarlet Sin? The other day a sixteen-year-old girl was sentenced to die for murder, and among other things in her testimony she said these awful words: "I WAS A GIRL OF SHAME AT 13." Think of it!

I was in a meeting in a city in Georgia, and shortly before the close of the meeting, I received a telephone call from a lady who said: "I must see you before you leave town."

Her cry was urgent, so I promised to go. I took a friend and went to her home. She was quite ill and had been so for about three years. Hers was a pitiful story! She said: "My trouble is not physical, but mental. It's in my mind and conscience! The doctors cannot touch my case." Then she further told us how, for nine years, she had been the leader of a Women's Organization in her church, and at the same time had been carrying on an affair with another man. While we were talking together, a fine fifteen-year-old boy came in from school, greeted his mother, and then went back into the kitchen to get an afternoon snack. I thought to myself, "Son, if you only knew the terrible confession your mother is making to this preacher! How would you feel about the one whom you think to be the purest, sweetest woman on earth?"

After he had gone, she resumed her story, telling of the sickness of her husband and her unfaithfulness all those years, which he knew nothing about. Then, with tears she cried: "Will God forgive me this terrible thing which I have done?" My heart went out to this poor woman in her wretchedness, and I opened my Bible, and said: "You have never committed murder. Have you?" She replied, "No."

Then I said: "David committed murder as well as the sin of adultery. When he came to realize what he had done, and acknowledged his sin to God, He was forgiven of God." I then read to her Psalm 32:3-5:

"When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long.

"For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer.

"I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin."

Then, I said, "Let us pray." She turned her face to the wall and with her face bathed in tears asked God to forgive her of all her sins and blot them out for Christ's sake. Thank God! He did it! She was saved!

A Guilty Man!

Beloved, men are guilty of this sin, too. While preaching under a tent in the City of Waterloo, Iowa, a man raised his hand for prayer at the close of the service one Saturday night. Immediately following the benediction that evening, he quickly slipped out of the tent before anyone had an opportunity to speak to him. On Sunday afternoon he returned to the meeting and was under deep conviction. When a Christian worker approached him, he asked to have a private word with me. We went down in front of the tent together, and I shall never forget his confessions. He said:

"Preacher, last night is the first time I have been in a church service in ten years. It was ten years ago that I committed a sin with a neighbor's wife that made me leave my home town, and since that time, I have been moving from place to place with this terrible thing tormenting me day and night. Will God forgive me this sin which I have done?"

He was trembling all over! There is something very sad about a strong man being whipped by his conscience and the memory of some sin he has committed. I asked him if he had ever murdered anyone! He said No! I then told him that God forgave David of his sin of murder and lust when he repented and confessed it, and that He would also forgive him.

He slipped down on his knees into the sawdust and poured out his heart to God, accepted Jesus as his Saviour, and was saved! His adultery had hounded him for ten years! Think of it! Some of you have done the same thing, and perhaps, you have forgotten your misdeeds, but remember — **FORGOTTEN IS NOT FORGIVEN! THEY ARE WRITTEN IN GOD'S BOOKS FOR FUTURE JUDGMENT!** Listen to what God says about this in His Word, as found in I Corinthians 6:9-10:

"Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God."

God will judge! "Marriage is honorable in all, and the bed undefiled: but adulterers God will judge" (Heb. 13:4).

I shall never forget preaching under a tent in a city in Georgia one night. In the course of the message I mentioned the woman in the fourth chapter of the Gospel of John, and told how the Lord read her heart and life, telling her about her sins, with five different men in her life previously, and that the one with whom she was now living was not her husband.

After the service a woman came to me, sobbing and cried: "I am worse than she was, for I have had more men in my life than she had."

Oh, how God's Word had pierced her guilty conscience, and thank God, she knelt right then and there, confessing her sins and was forgiven. God says "... the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death." (Rev. 21:8). Oh, the people who are on their way to Hell living in the terrible **Scarlet Sin of Adultery!**

8. MURDER — "Thou shalt not kill" (Exodus 20:13). Have you ever killed any one? In a meeting for ladies in Rome, Georgia, forty-five ladies came to the altar, knelt, repented, and accepted Jesus publicly. I tried to lead one woman to Jesus, but she looked into my face and said: "Will God forgive me of murder?"

I knew what she meant! I said to her, "If God forgave David of murder, He will also forgive you, if you will ask Him to do it."

She then bowed her head and confessed her sin, and came home to God through Christ's forgiving Blood.

9. SINFUL THOUGHTS — Even if you think that you have not committed any of the terrible sins named above, let me ask you this question. Have you ever had an evil thought? Jesus says: "... That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart" (Matt. 5:28).

Have you ever hated anyone? God's Word says:

"Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him" (I John 3:15). So, the evil thought is adultery, and the hateful attitude is murder, in the sight of God. Well, you say, "I have sinned, and want to be saved. What must I do to be saved?"

Christ Is the Only Remedy!

God's Word tells us that "... the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin" (I John 1:7).

Again, we read the blessed promise in Ephesians 1:7:

"In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace." Then we have that blessed truth in Isaiah 53:6:

"... and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all." Do you remember the precious hymn:

"There is a Fountain filled with Blood,

Drawn from Immanuel's veins;

And sinners, plunged beneath that flood,

Loose all their guilty stains:?"

But you must take the plunge! There is no other way to lose all your guilty stains. There is no other way by which you can have your sins washed away. But you say, "What must I do to be forgiven? The answer is —

Confess Your Sins to God!

"I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions — UNTO THE LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin."

I was called to go to a Salvation Army lodging in Atlanta one night after midnight, to talk to a young man who was greatly distressed and who was contemplating suicide. He was waiting for me, and as I drove up, he stepped into my car. I shall never forget his story!

He was from New Orleans having been a student at the University. He was married and had invited his best boy friend to stay with him in his home. Trying to work too, he was away from home much of the time, and you can imagine his agony when, one day he came home only to have his wife tell him that she no longer loved him, but had fallen in love with his best boy friend.

He was shocked and terribly grieved, and called in this man and asked if it were true. After they had both said "Yes," and he fully realized that his wife and best friend had betrayed him, had been keeping company in his absence, his first thoughts were to kill them both. He realized that would not remedy the situation, and so in his bewilderment, he got on the first train leaving town, and stopped off in Atlanta. This broken-hearted man poured out the whole story to me, and ended it by saying:

"I need God in my life. I need someone to pray to." To my amazement, he asked me to let him kneel and confess his sins to me. Of course, I refused and urged him to confess his sins to God.

No man has any right to confess his sins to man. There is no man that has any right to receive the confessions of sin and to pronounce the forgiveness. Only God can do that. Of course I refused! I don't know where he is tonight!

"If we confess our sins, HE is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (I John 1:9). When we confess our sins to God, HE FORGIVES OUR SINS.

You say, SUPPOSE I DON'T CONFESS my sins, give them up and trust Christ?

Then, my friend, you will die in your sins! Jesus says: "... ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins" (John 8:24). God tells us in His Word:

"For if we sin wilfully... there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,

"But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries."

There are two classes of people who will never repent and be saved:

First, those who grieve the Holy Spirit away until He leaves them alone.

Second, those who die without repentance — those who die in their sins!

JESUS SAID AGAIN: "YE SHALL SEEK ME, AND SHALL NOT FIND ME:..." (John 7:34). "... YE SHALL DIE IN YOUR SINS" (John 8:24). To die in one's sins means to die without repentance, to die without forgiveness from God to die with all your sins for which you will have to give an account before God, to die without Christ, to die unsaved, to die and go to Hell!

What does it mean to "die in your sins?" I'll tell you.

Not long ago a man was killed not so very far from my church. It happened as a train crashed into his automobile and hurled his soul into eternity. I was asked to conduct his funeral service. Since I did not know the man, I wondered why it was that his wife kept fainting away during the service and had to be given medical attention throughout the entire service. As I rode with the undertaker carrying the body of the man to the cemetery, it was all made clear to me. This man who had been killed was found to have had a wife and children in a northern state, and he was living with this poor soul and her children down here, when **SUDDENLY DEATH RUSHED HIM INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD.** Two women claimed his body! Two families claimed him as father. No wonder this woman was prostrated with grief! This man had died in his sins! She had to have medical attention throughout the funeral service, fainting repeatedly! I saw her literally cast herself prostrate upon that coffin over that open grave in her agony! The last glimpse I saw of her they were attempting to drag her away from the side of the grave. **DEATH HAD CAUGHT THEM IN THEIR SINS!** He died in his sins and was in Hell and she knew it!

Won't you go to God on your knees right now with bowed head and pray the sinner's prayer?

"God be merciful to me, a sinner, and save me now for Jesus' sake. Lord Jesus, I do now accept You as my Saviour. I believe You died for me on the cross, and that You took my Hell, my judgment, my punishment, and all my sins, so God can forgive me now. I do now surrender my life to You, intending to serve You for the rest of my days, and when I come to die, I believe You will take me home to Heaven not because I am good, but because You love me and died for me." For,

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (I John 1:9).

My friend, believe you are forgiven, for God says so, and He cannot lie. Then, after you have accepted Christ as your Saviour, and have been forgiven of all your sins, don't let a day go by without having at least one-half hour to an hour all alone with God in prayer and in the study of His precious Word. **WILL YOU DO IT JUST NOW?** Will you do it? Then write the editor today and say so, or copy the following decision and sign and mail it.

DECISION FOR CHRIST

Date

Evangelist John R. Rice
Editor, *Sword of The Lord*
145 North Hale Street

Wheaton, Illinois

Dear Brother Rice: I have just read Brother Hendley's sermon on "The Wages of Sin Is Death." I realize that up until now I have been a guilty, lost sinner, deserving the wages of sin, eternal death. But here and now I repent of my sins. I believe that Jesus died to save me and today I give Him my heart and trust Him to forgive me and save my soul. By His grace I will confess Him openly and try to live the rest of my life for Him. Please tell Brother Hendley.

Signed.....

Address.....